

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper



Pic: Ernie Greenwood

WE'RE WITH THE HEALTH WORKERS

All Hackney's Council workers stopped work on Wednesday 22 September in a massive show of solidarity with the workers in the National Health Service. Voting in both the manual workers meeting (shown above) and the building trades operatives meeting was unanimous in favour of a days strike - and the loss of a day's pay - as workers across the country showed the Government the strength of support for the NHS.

Many hundreds of people gathered in front of the Town Hall for a rally with speakers from local hospitals, including a patient recently discharged.

There were also speeches from two local MPs, Ernie Roberts and Stanley Clinton Davis, but there was no sign of the SDP's Ron Brown. Council Leader Anthony Kendall also spoke and a local band Mikado played the seven coaches which left the rally for the central London march on their way.

Many local schools closed, at least for part of the day. Even some journalists and print workers at the Hackney Gazette stopped work for a time!

Central London was brought to a standstill for several hours as about 120,000 marchers made their way from Waterloo to Hyde Park. Thousands of Londoners joined in on the route, or stood beside the march and applauded to show their support.

With the health unions remaining absolutely solid, and the determination of even the non-union Royal College of Nursing still firm, a solution seems a long way away. The Government has tried to buy off the nurses with various

complicated offers which will mean even less money being offered next year, but there is no sign that this kind of deal will be accepted.

A solution to the dispute has been offered by NUPE General Secretary Rodney Bickerstaffe. NUPE says that the full 12% claim could be met if the Treasury returned to the NHS

all the money owed as a result of underspending on health and personal social services since 1976.

"The money to pay the full claim in the Treasury coffers," said Bickerstaffe. "It was promised to the Health Service but never spent. Why not use it to end demoralisation in the NHS by paying the

health workers claim in full?"

"According to Government figures, we need an extra £432 million to pay the claim in full. Yet from 1976-81 the authorities spent £541 million less than the Government planned in England alone."

Whatever the progress made by the health workers dispute during October, and as we go to press the TUC has called for regional Days of Action to take place, it is clear that in Hackney, and the rest of the country, the community is firmly behind the workers.

Smiles in the crowd on the Day of Action. Pic: Ernie Greenwood.



PRICE RISE

We're sorry to announce that we've had to put the price of HPP up to 15p from this issue. This is, in fact, only the second price rise since 1977, in a time when our costs have risen at a much faster rate. For more bad news about our financial position see page 8.



HACKNEY GOES LOCAL

THE DEBATE STARTS

This month, the Council's decentralisation programme gets into full swing, with a massive programme of consultation. Leaflets are being delivered to every home in the borough. Meetings are being held in every ward.

What will this mean for Hackney? For the Council, it will be the most radical change seen in this country, leader Anthony Kendall writes on page 4. But there will need to be safeguards, so that Council officers are made to implement the changes that people really want. Some of the potential problems are outlined in our special decentralisation double page feature on pages 4 and 5.

As part of our commitment to extending local democracy HPP will be watching the decentralisation debate with keen interest... and a healthy scepticism.

If you really want to be informed, then you'll have to buy HPP... and get all the inside information! Place a regular order this month.

INSIDE



POLICING LONDON

See page 3.

plus

REAL BEER FESTIVAL...

St LEONARDS CRITICISED...

WHAT'S ON... BOROUGH PLAN...

HEALTH IN HOMERTON HISTORY

community accountancy

As a result of requests from a number of groups a community accountancy project has just been set up in Hackney. The project was initiated by Hackney Community Action and all groups affiliated to HCA have free access to the service. (Further details about Hackney Community Action can be obtained from Mary, Helen or Caroline on 729 5536) The project will be run and controlled by community groups in Hackney; NOT by the Accountancy profession or the council.

advice

So, what can the Community Accountancy Project offer local groups? Well if you are experiencing some form of financial problem then this project could provide a welcome source of free advice. However the project is much more than crisis accountancy, for instance advising new (or not so new!) groups on appropriate book keeping practices, budgets, funding, tax, insurance etc. In fact all the vital but often neglected financial matters fall within the scope

of the project. Apart from individual case work a number of seminars on various topics are envisaged: more details when known, in the meantime if there is a topic that you would like to see covered why not let the project know?

Initially funding for this project is for one worker for one year, but if it proves to be as successful as anticipated it is hoped that additional funds can be obtained to continue and perhaps expand this new initiative.

Andreas Michaelides has just started as the projects worker and is enthusiastic about the project and its need. Andreas makes a point of stressing the confidentiality of the project - any group's financial affairs will be guarded with the greatest care. If your group would like to use this service or if you'd merely like to know a bit more about what this community accountancy service can offer then get in touch with Andreas. He can be contacted at the rear of 34 Dalston Lane, E8 3AZ; Tel 249 7109.

THE FUTURE FACE OF HACKNEY

What changes should be made to the Borough in the future to make it the kind of place we want to live in? What would you like to see happening? The Council is currently asking residents and local groups for their views, based on the picture given in the latest Borough plan, which sets out the present position and issues involved.

A series of meetings is being arranged in different places throughout the Borough, beginning with Shoreditch at the end of September. Watch your local press for details of meetings.

THE PLAN

The plan itself, a weighty five-volume work, has been available since July, but the Council has given a little breathing space to allow local groups time to digest the wedge of material and come up with their own suggestions.

The first volume of the plan covers Hackney borough-wide and looks at housing, jobs, shops, transport, leisure services and public utilities such as gas and water. It sets Hackney within the wider frame-

works of what is happening in London under the GLC and nationally under various bodies such as BR. Each topic covers the situation as it is at present, with table and maps, explains the existing plans for the future and what the issues are that need to be debated, and decided.

For planning purposes Hackney has been divided into four areas, each covered by a separate document. These are Stoke Newington, Dalston, East Hackney and Shoreditch. These documents examine in some detail the particular questions which need to be resolved for that area.

The whole plan makes very clear the enormous size of the problems which need to be tackled in Hackney, but provide little in the way of hope that they can be resolved. Certainly, given the resources which will be available, major progress in overcoming them seems unlikely. Just to plough through the material set out in the plan presents a major challenge!

Copies of the full set can be seen in all public libraries, or can be obtained from the Planning Division at 161 City Road, London EC1 (Tel 253 8455, ex 337/372).



Diana Rayfield is 31. She cannot speak or walk and is semi-incontinent. She attends the Adult Training Centre in Albion Road. At the moment she lives with parents - but who will look after her when they become too elderly or infirm? Pic: Nick Oakes.

mental handicapped action

The Hackney Action for Mentally Handicapped people group are hoping to win a better deal for local mentally handicapped people after a seminar with the Council on 2 October. A video will be shown and there will be discussions about the special needs of both children and adults. There will also be an exhibition of photographs and slides.

Nick Oakes of HAMHP told HPP that he hoped that the outcome of the seminar would be a more complete and coherent policy by the Council. "Provision for the mentally handicapped, spread as it is over Social Services, education through ILEA and the NHS, is poorly co-ordinated," he said. "Most people - including councillors - are hardly aware of the existence of

the mentally handicapped, which makes it very difficult to convince those with their hands on the purse strings just how essential special services are to provide a normal life for them. We don't think that provision for mentally handicapped should be made at the expense of other social services, but like the nurses, we are something of a cinderella case."

TUBE STATIONS

Following the Law Lords ruling on the Fares Fair policy, London Transport have been looking at their finances. One of the results is that a number of Tube stations are being considered for closure. The first five are Edgware Road (Bakerloo Line), Fairlop, Regents Park and nearer home Aldwych and Shoreditch.

There are quite lengthy formal procedures to be followed (including an official inquiry into likely hardship) before any station can be closed. It's early days so keep a look out for future developments. For the latest details contact Hackney Public Transport Action Committee, 739 5137.

HEALTH IN HOMERTON

Do you remember people talking about leeching bottles, swamp root tonic and belladonna plasters? Do you still occasionally catch yourself thinking that you need half-a-crown to visit the doctor? Do you, in short, have memories of what it was like to be ill in Homerton before the last war?

If you do, whatever your story, your reminiscences are in demand. A new project will start shortly to make a record of the past history of health care in Homerton. In a time of change, with the new hospital in Homerton beginning to overshadow the old Hackney Hospital, the project thinks it is very important to record what things used to be like. They need to be able to contrast the health care of earlier days and see how it has changed to what we have today. Eventually, when enough material has been gathered together, a booklet with photographs and stories will be produced.

Now then, is the chance to tell your own story. Go along on Monday, 11 October, from 2-4pm, to the community flat at 282 Banister House, Homerton High Street, London E9 (tea and biscuits are promised as an added attraction!) and share your memories. If you have difficulties with transport, ring 533 1525.

This proposed history of what health in Homerton used to be like is being organised by the Health in Homerton project and the Hackney Workers' Educational Association. The Health in Homerton project is a local group with NHS funding employing two full time workers and is based on the Banister House estate. It is concerned with local people's health. Any local information about health and anything which affects it would be welcomed by the workers. They are at their base from 10 to 4.30 from Monday to Friday and would like to see more visitors.

GLC SEEKS CONTROL OF THE MET

crisis of policing in London

The Metropolitan Police is still the only force in the Country which is not answerable to a locally elected police authority. So points out "Policing London", a new publication put out on a monthly basis by the GLC's Police Committee Support Unit. At the moment, the Met is answerable to Parliament through the Home Secretary. The magazine, for its part, renews the call for public accountability at a local level through the setting up of a police authority comprised of GLC and London borough councillors.

"Policing London", in a front page editorial, suggests that if there was more accountability, more attempt at interaction between the police and the communities they serve, further conflicts with the black community would be avoided. It argues that the increased use of the Special Patrol Group in public order situations and the growth of other riot trained units equipped with special uniforms and equipment is opposed to the traditional concept of policemen concentrating on their own areas, knowing the problems and walking the streets.

Understanding Crime Figures

In a revealing article on crime figures, the magazine points out that Scotland Yard's figures on muggings, which suggested an apparent rise in this area, are of dubious value and have no standing in law. They are in fact made up from a variety of different offences. In addition, the idea that blacks are disproportionately responsible for violent street crime is presented by the Met on the basis of figures for the 'ethnic appearance of attackers' which have been put together from the victims' perception. The number of "coloured" people arrested, tried and convicted for these crimes have not been released.

Although they possess the information, the Met has not published figures showing what proportion of the victims of violent street crimes are also black. A recent Home Office report on racial attacks has commented that: "The incidence of victimisation (with regard to offences such as violence against the person and robbery) has been much higher for the ethnic minority populations, particularly the Asians than for white people. Indeed, the rate for Asians was over 50 times that for white people and the rate for blacks was over 36 times that for white people." In its category of 'Other Serious Offences'

which includes sexual offences, burglary, handling and criminal damage, the same study reveals that 72% of victims in its sample were black or Asian.

The article also quotes from another survey which has appeared in 'The British Journal of Criminology' and which looked at crime figures from "L" District (Brixton). This survey showed how changes in the way crimes are catalogued can engineer what appear to be 'crime waves'. The survey concluded that "the whole Brixton experience demonstrates that the perception by police officers of Brixton as a 'unique' area was part of the problem and could well have been, partially and statistically, a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Low Clear-Up Rates

Elsewhere in "Policing London" there is comment that the persistently low clear-up rates of serious crime reported by the public contribute to lower expectations and confidence in the police. While evidence shows that 80% of crime remains unreported, only 17% of reported crime was cleared up in 1981 as opposed to 21% in 1977. Most of the reported crimes were those that affect all sections of the community. For example, the clear-up rate for burglary in the home or at work was just 11% in 1980. For autocrime, the figure was only 9%. These figures should be judged against the resources that the Met currently has at its disposal. It currently employs 25,618 officers and 15,000 civilians. In the financial year 1981-82, its income was £627 million - 43% of which came from the rates.

Hackney's Police Committee Although there is no statutory police authority, various London boroughs have now set up their own committees to consider and monitor policing policies within their areas. Hackney Council is one of these. An objective of the Chair of the Committee, Brynley Heaven, is to open up the debate on policing and make the policy more responsive to local needs.

Both Brynley Heaven and Council Leader Anthony Kendall, have, for example, recently written to Home Secretary William Whitelaw about plans to give the police greater powers to question suspects. They are concerned that the new measures - which allow, among other things, the forcible fingerprinting of suspects - could create tension between the police and local communities in areas like

Hackney, with high unemployment and serious social problems. Explains Brynley Heaven: "The new rules simply place too much power in the hands of individual police officers... past experience over laws like 'SUS' makes it only too clear that the new rules could be wide open to abuse by some police officers who are over keen to get a conviction."

Hackney's Police Committee replaces an informal liaison group in which councillors held, on an intermittent basis, private meetings with the local police Commander. The Committee consists of sixteen councillors and eight co-opted members, of which three come from ethnic minority organisations in the borough. The new Committee, like all other committees of the Council, holds all its meetings in public.

GLC Police Committee

Grants from the GLC's Police Committee are available to finance groups or projects in the Greater London area in the fields of policing, public order and law enforcement. In general, grants are made to new police monitoring groups, to existing organisations who want to extend their work or to carry out a specific project, and to groups who provide a service which furthers the work of the GLC's Police Committee. The Committee has a sum of £400,000 set aside for grants for the year 1982-83.

Application forms and details of the criteria to be satisfied can be obtained from: The Police Committee Support Unit (DG/PLS), County Hall, London, SE1 7PB.

WAITING AT ST. LEN'S

Survey reveals mismanagement

The City & Hackney Community Health Council has just published the results of a survey into outpatients' waiting times at one Hackney hospital, St. Leonard's, Hoxton. It showed that (1) hospital workers were in a state of confusion as to how the clinics were managed; (2) there were large differences in waiting times from clinic to clinic; and (3) this had its effect on people when wanting to attend a clinic.

St. Leonard's was chosen because the staff there welcomed the suggestion of a survey. They were in fact very concerned about the quality of service being offered to the public.

Confusion

The major factor that became obvious while conducting the survey was that each group of hospital worker had different expectations and beliefs about how outpatients was run, about who ran it and about their own part in it. They were even confused about the times clinics started. Apparently, many clinics started half an hour before the doctors were scheduled to arrive!

Waiting Times

In general, the survey found that an appointment was not a reliable indicator of when a patient would see a doctor. Although many patients arrived early or on time, there was little significant difference in the amount of time they waited and the time seen in clinic, and the time the rest of the patients waited. On average the survey found waiting times of an hour common, 61% of patients waited more than 30 minutes and 12% were seen more than 90 minutes late.

Consequences of Waiting

Just under a third of the patients questioned had to

make special arrangements to attend a clinic, such as taking time off work or getting a baby-sitter. For a quarter of these, the arrangements cost them money.

General Recommendations

The recommendations that the Community Health Council made, as a result of the survey, were as follows:

- the appointment system should be revised and a new system developed based on a realistic assessment of the needs of both patients and staff.
- the starting times for clinics should be clarified so that patients and doctors are expected to arrive at approximately the same time.
- attention should be given to improving the quality of communication between patients and staff.
- one person should be clearly identified and recognised as having the responsibility for overseeing the smooth running of the clinic.
- patients should be given a printed slip explaining where to go, which entrance is suitable for wheelchairs, where to park, the name of the consultant and roughly how long they can expect to wait.
- the procedure for notifying the hospital administration of absence or lateness should be clarified and mutually agreed between doctors, nursing and medical staff.
- the importance of the role of reception and nursing staff should be more adequately recognised, as the patient's view of the hospital is often determined by these "front line" staff.
- doctors should be clearly identified on their door or desk.
- the provision of reading material and health promotion material for patients should be looked at.

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COUNCIL LEADER KENDALL GIVES US HIS VIEWS

The reason why we have adopted a policy of decentralisation is because I think that local government has failed, and that failure is a disaster for socialists. Socialists believe in local publicly-run services which will be controlled by local people. That isn't to say, by the way, that we haven't made amazing steps forward since the war in terms of health, housing and so on. But if people in this borough are asked who they hate most, who they have most trouble with, they say, the Council. Fifty years ago, they would have said some nasty capitalist who owned their house. That is what we have to change, and the only way we will change is to make our services more efficient, more friendly and more controlled by local people.

Decentralisation is not a management exercise: it is a actually giving flesh to socialist thoughts. It is a very radical step forward. If we hold our nerve, and we complete the programme in the way in which people are currently talking about then Hackney will have been engaged in the most radical change in this country.

We can only achieve decentralisation by taking the people with us from the word go, before we begin to change anything. We've instituted a massive range of meetings: more public consultation than there has ever been on any issue before. There will be meetings in every ward, a conference in November and a conference in February. There will be a special issue of the Hackney Herald. We've already had a lot of people writing in making their own suggestions.

It is important to understand that there are no blueprints not even so far as to what areas we devolve to. Will it be wards, something smaller than wards, or a combination of wards and something else.



Local people can really influence that, and they can influence the amount of services that can happen in their area and what sort of people staff their area. I am fairly convinced that we want to have generalist people in each area, and get away from the professionalist nonsense that people use when they say, I'm an Environmental Health Officer: talk to me a about ants and nothing else. People will also influence the outcome by stating how they want to get involved: do they want to become politicians attending meetings, or do they want say a once a month neighbourhood forum and be able to go in at other times and talk directly to the officers. Those of us who are politicians are really masochists: we attend far too many meetings, and we think that everyone else wants to do the same.

We are presenting people with a fairly blank piece of paper, and we are saying let us jointly draw these neighbourhood offices. And we are also saying to our staff, what do you think about it. All 7,000 have had a letter and some of them are now replying. There isn't a master plan locked away in a filing cabinet, which will be produced at the last moment.

Once the programme has settled down and if it is successful, it will develop an enormous amount of pressure for extra services, which will get us into a lot of conflict with central government

Going Local: the debate

because more money will be wanted for repairs, improvements etc. What it will also create is a further problem in how we relate to the giants like the NHS (if there is any of it left after the Tories have privatised it) or ILEA or the Department of Employment. At the moment I really don't know about this. The Council is sponsoring a series of meetings and a big public meeting and maybe some ideas will come out of that. What will come out of it will be that people will say, we're involved in our housing, in our local services, why can't we have more control over our education or our local hospital. If people are given a little bit of democracy they will want more. These institutions are vast and very centralised.

The recent decision about the Stephens store site in Stoke Newington highlights many of the areas we are going to have to face. Decentralisation will mean more conflict, more debate and more politics in Hackney. And that is not a bad thing. If you are a allowing local people to make a decision, then you have to have some safeguards - against racism and sexism, obviously, and in the case of planning about what is happening in the borough as a whole. Hackney is not suddenly being taken over by offices.

What happened over the site was that we wrote a newsletter about it and held two meetings in Northwold ward and with reservations, local people wanted to get something done to improve the area, and if that was the only thing that was happening, they said do it.

The relationship with our workforce is difficult. I am convinced that they are going to have a better deal with decentralisation. In some of the interviews that I have done I have been rather rude about them. Some of them have been getting a bit angry with me. I think that we will be providing them with an atmosphere where they'll be able to work in a more friendly way, and be better appreciated rather than in the terrible environment we create for them. They are right to be fearful. Their lives are going to change fundamentally. I think for the better. We need to take them with us. It won't work if we have to drag them screaming into decentralisation. More and more officers are being liberated by the process, even just over the discussion. I do not want to attack all officers, just like that. There are many people of dedication and talent working in the Town Hall.

I hope that everyone living in the borough will take this opportunity to get involved in deciding the shape of local services for many years to come. Even if you can't get along to any of the meetings - or get involved through local groups - then you can still write to me at the Town Hall in Mare Street.



HCA JOINS THE DISCUSSION

Hackney Community Action is holding an open meeting to discuss the issue of decentralisation after this issue of HPP goes to press. More ideas may well come up out of that meeting, but in the meantime, HPP has prepared this article from some notes written up for the HCA meeting. They do not, therefore, represent the final views of HCA about the issue, but are printed here to promote discussion.

The Council recognises that some services, like repairs and street cleaning, do not work well, and they think, therefore, that the creation of many local offices would be a way of improving the way in which council services run. But we all recognise that the Council democracy is not all that it might be. How far is the population of Hackney involved in decisions about services, and how will decentralisation change this? Is the Council really committed to taking money and power out of the Town Hall?

Over recent years, central government has taken more and more powers away from local government. How will decentralisation tackle this?

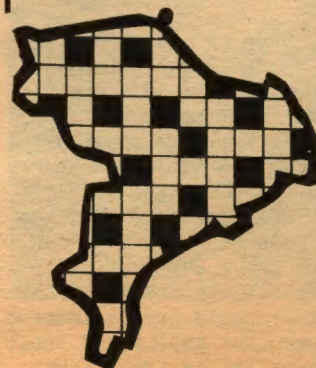
At the moment, many groups involved in HCA find the issue hard to relate to. Many groups are issue-oriented: that is, formed around play provision, say, or women's rights or pensioners. We all have too much work to do, and we don't see it as our job to work out what kind of decentralisation we need.

The decentralisation working party in the Town Hall is made up of councillors, representatives of unions, community groups and other members of the Labour Party, through the local government committee. They are keen not to lay down a blueprint because they want to consult - but we have little to grasp on to, since so few of us understand how the Council works. It makes it very hard indeed to imagine new creative possibilities.

At the moment different departments in the council are being asked how they would decentralise between 30% and 90% of their staff. Some department are beginning to think this through - but others have very clear ideas about what they want to happen. As this process goes on, community groups are in grave danger of being left behind, because, perhaps unconsciously, the blueprint is being drawn up.

For example, when the Housing Department took over the GLC housing, they reorganised housing management to district offices so that there are now six housing districts in Hackney. The Director is now proposing that local offices would be responsible for cleaning, repairs and housing management, but that the remaining functions should stay at district level. Furthermore, he states that it would be valuable to have officers from other departments, such as architects, valuers, engineers and environmental health officers at district level also. Is this what tenants really want?

To back this up, the Finance Director and the environmental health department have also shifted some of their functions around a little to correspond with the six housing offices. Why?



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SPECIAL DEBATE

Friday 29 October, 7.30pm
Friends House, Finsbury Rd, London NW1

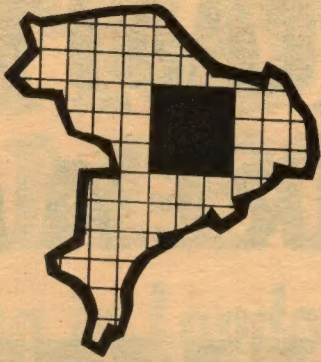
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opens



When some of us think about decentralisation, we assume that there will be a lot of neighbourhood offices, close enough to call in at on the way to the shops or to school. We assume that everyone we need to deal with will be there. If there are going to be district offices then people like architects are bound to be in them. Don't we want to start with a more radical approach, building up from the demands of tenants and residents and workers? Districts seem to be some sort of compromise, that people in the centre at the moment, the Town Hall, can relate to.

A few months ago, HCA produced a video called Going Local. In it we tried to say that senior management controlled most of the decisions affecting Hackney people, and that they were mostly white men, who by definition, however well-intentioned they may be, cannot represent the interests of the most oppressed groups in Hackney. We said that elected members failed to control the workings of the council. Our fantasy of a local office was a place where locally elected committees representing oppressed groups make the decisions based on their experience of living in the borough.

We see decentralisation as being more than better services and a better relationship between officer and public. Why should a fantasy of a local office and budget, run and controlled by local people, remain a fantasy?

HCA has not finalised the kinds of demands that it will be making. And being a decentralised organisation itself, individual groups should be making their own decisions! But some demands could well be along these lines:

1. Local offices must be based on estates and neighbourhoods. There should not be districts as intermediate management systems.
2. At least 70% of staff should be decentralised, with exceptions to be proved to be necessary.
3. There has to be a commitment to local control, with local committees having a majority of non-white, non-male, non-owner-occupier members.
4. Jobs in neighbourhood offices have to be made available to people without professional qualifications.
5. An extensive programme of training for council staff will be necessary for staff who are now specialists.
6. Job creation must be for workers who will carry out the services, and not for more management posts.



A NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL OF THE FUTURE?

the effect on council workers

The single group of people most affected by decentralisation will be the Council's own workforce. More than three-quarters of the manual workers also live in the borough, and so they will be doubly affected.

Although the workforce has yet to make up its mind exactly how it will respond to the issue, it is clear that it will be demanding that any neighbourhood committees would have to have effective representation from all sections of the workforce. In the manual divisions alone this would mean members participating from many different departments and sections. All of the following, for instance are workers from sections who provide the public services which people are going to be able to criticise — or praise — directly, and all of them will need to be represented on the new neighbourhood committees.

CONTRACT SERVICES:
Highways, sewers, street lighting, cleansing, furniture.

BUILDING WORKS
Divided into two sections, capital works and maintenance, with all different trades, such as electricians, plumbers, plasterers, painters etc in each.

SOCIAL SERVICES:
Residential homes workers for both old people and children in care. Home helps, meals on wheels service.

ADMINISTRATION
Environmental health. Council offices porters, cleaners, messengers etc. Canteen staff.

LEISURE SERVICES:
Parks: park keepers, gardeners, play equipment supervisors. Sports centre staff. Baths: attendants, cafe staff, laundry staff. Libraries: housebound services, porters.

HOUSING:
Cleaners, caretakers.

In other departments, it seems that Finance is unlikely to be decentralised. If rent and rates still have to be paid centrally, this could create difficulties for people in local areas.

NUPE District secretary Les Skeates told HPP that the manual workers would be looking for representation for all sections on the neighbourhood committees. Although officers and workers might be multidis-

ciplinary, it would not be possible to get "generalists" in the broadest sense. And, he pointed out, many departments would have to remain partly centralised. For instance, there will soon be only two yards for dustcarts in the whole of the borough. It would be completely impossible for the Council to set up a dustcart yard for each area: with all the problems of maintenance and fuelling that that would cause.

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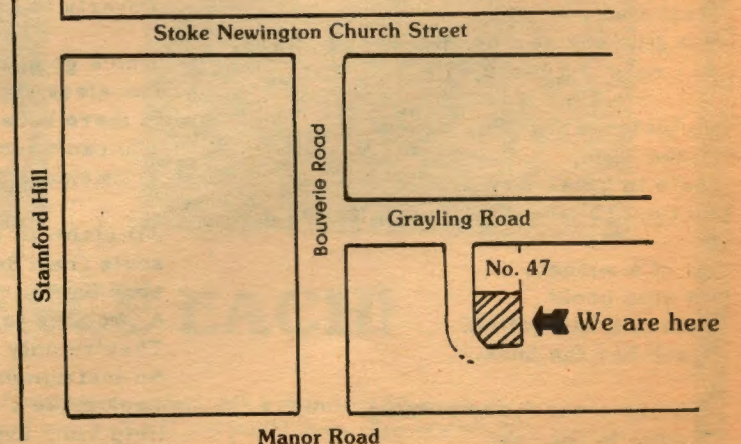
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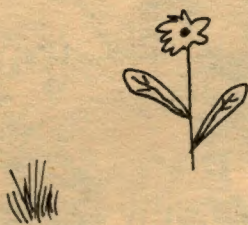
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Hackney country centre



Hackney Country Centre was opened over two years ago; it is a converted railway station at Darsham, a small village near the Suffolk coast. It was originally bought with money from the silver jubilee fund and the inner city partnership. Since then it has been rehabilitated and decorated through a combination of professional and voluntary help. The centre is open for use by groups from any where in the Hackney area. Up to 15 people can stay in the centre at any one time.

OPEN DAY & A.G.M.

On Saturday October 9, with the support of the Friends of the Country Centre in Darsham, the Centre is holding an open day to which all members of the Hackney Community are invited. It'll be open from 11am to 4pm. Refreshments will be available and a chance to look round the building and its facilities.

The Hackney Country Centre will be holding its Annual General Meeting at Hackney College, Chelmer Rd, E9 on October 18 at 5pm. Nominations from the community and voluntary sector to join the management committee are invited.

Management

The Management Committee is made up of representatives from Hackney College and from Voluntary/Community groups. It's a working committee responsible for all decisions involving policy, use and upkeep of the centre and for ensuring their implementation. It meets monthly and at present the community is underrepresented on it. Many of its most regular user groups take no part in its management - it is hoped that this can be remedied this year.

Any correspondence should be addressed to the secretary Hackney Country Centre, c/o Hackney College, Ayrsome Rd, N16 0RH.

C.H.A.R.

As announced in last month's HPP, a meeting was held in Centerprise on 7 September of people interested in the problem of single homelessness in Hackney. Present were single homeless people, people working in housing, community workers, a councillor and others. They discussed local authority housing policy on single homeless people supportive accommodation for people with special needs (eg. people leaving psychiatric hospital, ex-offenders) and health care provision for homeless people - all of which could become the basis of local campaigns.

The setting up of an East London CHAR (Campaign for the homeless and rootless) group covering the boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Newham of which this group would be the Hackney branch is proposed. The group could have an involvement in East London campaigns such as the campaign for the closure of the large lodging houses in Tower Hamlets and their replacement by small hostels where appropriate and access to public housing.

On October 11 there is to be a seminar with Hackney councillors on council housing allocation policy, to which the Hackney group will be sending two representatives. Further information about Hackney CHAR can be obtained by writing to them c/o 177 Glenarm Rd, E5.

EAST LONDON REAL ALE FESTIVAL.



The East London Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale are holding the first East London Real Ale Festival from Thursday evening October 14 to Saturday evening October 16. (See the What's On listings for details of opening times and entertainments.)

The Festival site is York Hall, Old Ford Road, E2 - at the junction with Cambridge Heath Rd. So, it's about 5 minutes walk from Bethnal Green Tube or Bus nos. 253, 106, 8 and 6 will take you there.

BEERS

At the time of going to press about 30 breweries and 62 beers (plus the infamous Rich's Cider!) will be present to quench the first of East End drinkers. One of the festival organisers, Adrian Hall explained to HPP that they have deliberately tried to obtain supplies of beers that are not normally found in this area. So, in addition to London brews such as Fullers, Godsons ("Ales from Bow"), Pitfield (the new Shoreditch mini-brewery); there will be a chance to sample the delights of Ales from such breweries as Blue Anchor, Phillips, Robinsons, Timothy Taylor (highly recommended- typist) and appropriately enough at a "Pigs Ear" festival, Trough from Yorkshire, plus of course many others.



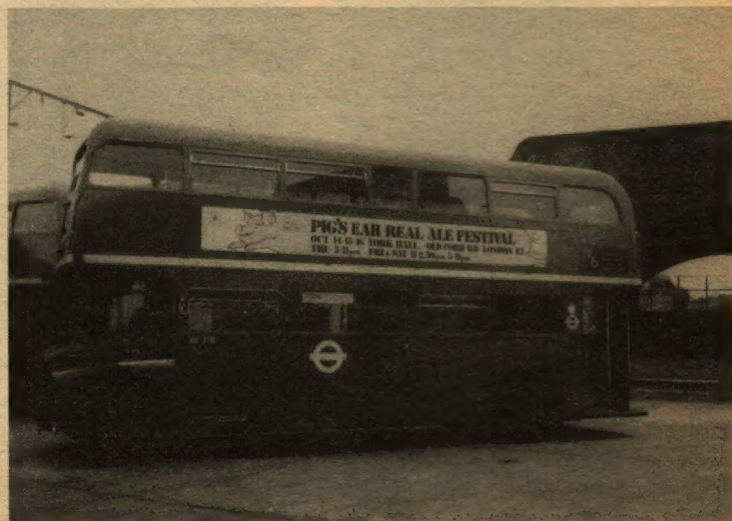
PIG'S EAR REAL ALE FESTIVAL

York Hall, Old Ford Rd E.2
October 14, 15, 16

GAMES

Pub games and a Yard-of-Ale contest will take place at every session, plus stalls and sideshows including badge making and beer mats.

Staff are still required to help run the festival (CAMRA membership is required); if you can help contact Adrian Hall on 471 5361 (Home). For further information about the festival ring Jullian Farrow on 980 0564 (Home).



LOOK OUT FOR THE BUSES ADVERTISING THE BEER FESTIVAL - BELIEVED TO BE THE FIRST TIME A FESTIVAL HAS BEEN PROMOTED IN THIS WAY.

As Good As We Make It

Work by Centerprise Young Writers

This is the title of a new book expected to be available during October at Centerprise, price £1.40. This is their second collection of writing by young people and is illustrated by photographs from the Centerprise young photographers' group. By way of a sampler HPP is printing two poems from the book.....

Keys Rattling

Keys rattling,
Pa at the door.
Dinner is ready,
Just like before.
Yesterday, today,
How many more.

Ma by the cooker,
What a way of life.
But still she scrubs, cooks and cleans,
Her role is a black wife.

No pictures for her, no evenings
on the town,
She's in house so much
No time to take off dressing gown.

All of a sudden,
Ma stop cook!
Women's Liberation!
I gave her the book.

Now she's out every evening.
Resting in the day,
Enjoying God's life,
The sensible way.

Angela Mars

Eve's Poem

World economic crisis, chaos on the streets,
The masses are marching against the
government that they pick
The young generation look on in vain
Their elders can no longer convince them
there's something to gain
Who's going to take the blame when
the riots start again
World economic crisis, chaos on the streets

Poverty is on the beat, job creation has
fallen down the pit
Who's going to represent the jobless, the
homeless and those who just walk the streets
Is there hope for the futureless children
who can't compete with the micro-chip
Politicians, social workers and those who
are concerned

All claim to represent the poverty-stricken
souls from days of old when they gave out
soup bowls
A promise is a comfort to a fool
They're only using you as a tool
An instrument to fulfil their own ambitions
Look there's one suffering from malnutrition
Help him, expect nothing,
Then you won't be disappointed when you receive
nothing

Eveline Marius

WHAT'S ON

Music

CROWN & CASTLE
600 Kingsland Road, E8
254 3678

Downstairs bar Live folk music most nights - free. Upstairs bar Doors open at 9pm, show starts at 10pm. Late bar and food. Cabaret - phone for details.

FOX'S WINE BAR
Stoke Newington Church Street
N16. 254 2709. Free at 8.30

Fri 1 October Alistair Gavin (piano) and Tim Sanders (sax)
Sat 2 October David Shaw (piano) and Paul Hyde (bass)
Fri 8 October Louis O'Neill (piano)
Sat 9 October Martin Speake (sax) and Simon Purcell (piano)
Fri 15 October As for Sat 2
Sat 16 October As for Fri 1
Fri 22 October As for Fri 8
Sat 23 October As for Sat 9
Fri 29 October Phone for details
Sat 30 October Simon Purcell (piano) and Nick Hutton (bass)

THE PEGASUS
109 Green Lanes, N16
254 5930

Every Sunday - Republic £1.30
Every Monday - Breakers £1.00
Every Tuesday - Rush hour £1
Every Wednesday - J.J. and the Jealous Guys £1.25
Thursday 7, 21 - Micky Jupp £1.50
Thursday 14 - The Hank Wangford Band £2
Thursday 28 - Ivory Coasters £1.50

Friday 8, 22 - Juice on the Loose £1.50
Friday 15 - Vocalation £1.50

Reductions for students, the unemployed, claimants and nurses.

HACKNEY FESTIVAL
See under separate heading.

HACKNEY MUSICIANS' COLLECTIVE
Live gigs every Thursday at the Sir George Robey pub, Finsbury Park (opposite the Rainbow) Free or 50p. 8.30 - 11pm.

7 October Cold war and the Screaming Babies
14 October Purple Panic and support
21 October The Unknowns
28 October Ravaging Beauties

PEMBURY ARMS
90 Amhurst Road, E8
985 5288

Mons & Tues Video films (free)
Weds Country and Western DJ
Thurs DJ free
Fri Rock 'n' roll DJ
Sundays Flying saucers (50p)
Starts 8.30

Cinema

ACE (formerly KONAK)
13-15 Stoke Newington Road,
N16 254 2415

From
Sun 3 Pink Flod's The Wall
Sun 10 The entity
Sun 17 Love at first bite + American werewolf in London
Sun 24 Watcher in the woods + Night crossing (children's films)

Phone the cinema for programme times. All seats £2 for adults £1 children, UB40s, 50p for OAPs.

ASTRA
119 Stoke Newington Road, N16
254 0046

Phone for details

CENTERPRISE
136 Kingsland High Street, E8

Presented by Hackney CND, free 7.30

The red stain Czech animated cartoon about a fisherman and his small son and their power to overcome the forces of destruction.

It's a grand life An intellectual and powerful attack on a civilisation which feeds on war and the threat of war. Medieval death dances, concentration camps and pop songs in a shattering juxtaposition.

Sad song of yellow skin Three young American journalists look at Saigon and the more subtle effects of war on the people. National Film Board of Canada, 1970.

HACKNEY FILM SOCIETY
Homerton Library Hall,
Homerton High Street, E9.

Thurs 7 A raisin in the sun (1961) Daniel Petrie, 127 min
Starring Sidney Poitier
Thurs 14 Red dust (1932) Victor Fleming with Clark Gable, Jean Harlow
Thurs 21 Bicycle thieves (1948) Vittoria de Sica. 90 mins, subtitles.
Thurs 28 Walkabout (1970) Nicholas Roeg. 100 mins

20 films for £5. Concessions.

RIO
107 Kingsland High Street, E8.
249 2722

Phone for details.

Theatre

CROWN & CASTLE
See above. Phone for details.

HALF MOON
213 Mile End Road, E1 790 4000

1, 2 Oct The Alchemist by the Court Theatre Co. 7.30
8 Dancers Anonymous 8.00
15 Music hall 8.00
16 Dance workshop 11am £1.
22 Migrations, by Karim Alrawi 8.00
26 War story, the Avon Touring Theatre Co. 8.00
29 Word in Action present a Halloween show. 8.00
Every Tues Music workshop. 7.30. £6/year - concessions.
Every Wed Playwriting group. 8.00. £6/year.

Prices ---£1.50 except 40p unemployed and claimants, 75p members, 30p OAPs

THEATRE ROYAL
Gerry Raffles Square, E15
534 0301

1, 2, 4 Oct Migrations, Karim Alrawi, £1 --2.
14 Oct on The lucky ones, by Tony Marchant. £1-5.

EAST LONDON REAL ALE FESTIVAL

York Hall, Old Ford Rd, E2
See article in this issue for more details.
Thursday Oct 14: 5 to 11pm with the Greenwood Morrismen and Ragtime Piano music.
Friday 15: 11am to 2.30pm and 5 to 11pm with a Jazz band.
Saturday 16: 11am to 2.30pm with the Greenwood Morrismen, and 5 to 11pm with a Banjo Band.

HACKNEY FESTIVAL

Events are being held from 4-19 Oct at places throughout Hackney. The attractions this year include Turkish, African and Israeli dancers, an Asian evening, Frankie Vaughan, Il Trovatore and for kids, magic and fun and Let's make a pageant. All these events are free but contact the Arts and Entertainments Office at; Shoreditch Town Hall for details and tickets.

Weekend Arts Event: Hackney Arts Showcase - at Chats Palace Friday 22 and Saturday 23 October. An exhibition of local groups and artists in Hackney. Free.

A photography class is being run by the Springfield Project on Lea View estate. It will run on Tuesdays from 7-9pm, from 5 Oct. It will cover all aspects of taking photos and processing them. Cost for the term is £1. Ring Pete or Jill for more info on 806 9617. There are only 12 places.

Small, friendly classes for unemployed adults who want to improve their reading, writing, spelling and maths. Contact Judy Gawn at Kingsland, Shacklewell Lane, E8; Tel 254 4034

Hackney Arts and Leisure Forum meetings: Thursday October 14, 7.30pm, at Hoxton Hall, 128a Hoxton Street, N1. All welcome. Hackney Arts and Leisure Forum is a forum for individuals and groups interested and/or active in the arts in Hackney, where people can share their work and discuss relevant issues.

The Mary Seacole project for girls and women is holding its AGM at Centerprise on Tuesday 12 Oct at 7pm. All women are welcome to come along and find out more about the project. A new management committee will be elected during the meeting.

Hackney Play Association will be holding their AGM on October 13 at the Fire Station Community Centre on Leswin Road. Tea and Coffee from 7.30pm, the meeting starting at 8pm. There will also be a display of Summer playscheme work - All are welcome.

Centerprise requires a new Bookshop worker to join the Collective. Experience in the trade would be an advantage. For details send a large SAE to Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Closing date is 25/10/82.

Knight Family

Mrs Nellie Knight and her daughters won a victory at Snaresbrook Court when she and her eldest daughter Jennifer were acquitted of four of the six charges against them. The jury could not agree on the other two charges, which may be retried.

Nellie and Jennifer had been charged with previous bodily harm after they had been arrested by the police. They were so badly beaten by the police that Nellie had to be taken to hospital. They had originally been charged with assault and it was only after they had contacted a solicitor, who advised them to complain about their treatment, that they were charged with the much more serious offence.

The protest campaign about their treatment goes on: both to prevent any retrial on the two minor charges still outstanding and to protest at their treatment - both physical and mental - by the police when they were arrested at the end of last year. They are pressing now for major compensation by the courts, on the lines of the money awarded earlier this year to another Stoke Newington family, the Whites, after the ordeal they suffered at the hands of men from the same police station.

Contact Knight Family Campaign, c/o Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N.16.

'action sport'

'Action Sport' is a new project, funded by the Sports Council, to promote sport for everyone - for leisure, self-fulfilment and health.

In Hackney, Action Sport is a team of six, initially based at Shoreditch Town Hall to gain full knowledge and impact in the area. They can offer help with anything from gentle armchair exercises and dance, to football and boxing. Action Sport are particularly interested in such 'low participation' groups as school leavers, women with children, the over-50s, physically disabled and mentally handicapped.

Work started in September with a 'profile' of the existing activities in the area. Some activities have already begun through schools, leagues, festivals and community centres. Many people are opposed to the idea of exertion at first, but once they have experimented they prove keen for more!

If you would like any help to start some form of activity either 'one-off' or a regular session; or perhaps a talk on Action Sport, the role of sport in society or the need for exercise or help in any campaigns for facilities - then get in touch. Action Sport are keen to meet as many community groups as possible and will help whenever they can. Contact them at Shoreditch Town Hall, 380 Old Street, Ecl. Tel: 739 7600, ex 468/469/470.

HACKNEY LISTENS TO WOMEN

WOMEN'S RIGHTS
Sub-committee

Hackney Council has set up a new women's rights committee to promote the welfare and interests of women in the borough.

We are holding our first open meeting on **Thursday October 21 at 7.30pm** in The Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8
Come along and take part in the discussion about how we can tackle issues such as facilities for under-fives, jobs, violence against women, racial disadvantage and welfare rights. To enable all women to attend a creche and facilities for the disabled will be available.

For details please contact
Patricia Bonner or Julie Roberts
TEL: 986 3123 exts 205/221

SAVE ££s ON YOUR PAPER!

Due to increased costs HPP is beginning to slip into debt with our printers. The paper has been held at 12p since February 1981 but to survive we have to increase our income from advertising, donations and sadly the increased price as you will already have noticed. This means that the subscription cost will also rise, but for one month only we are holding it to £2.80. This then is your last chance to take out a subscription to your favourite paper at this give away price - just complete the form at the bottom of this column and return it to us while this offer lasts!

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

The open editorial meeting for the next issue of HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS will be held at Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8 at 8pm on Tuesday 12 October. If you would like to help write or produce the next issue then please come along.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders and no one is paid by the paper.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and shops throughout Hackney. If you think that your newsagent would like to sell it, on sale or return, then please contact us. And if you don't think that you can spare the time to become more involved, but you enjoy reading HPP and think more people should read it, then please get in touch if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends or neighbours or at meetings.

Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £2.80 for one year's subscription to Hackney People's Press, 47a Grayling Road, N16. Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

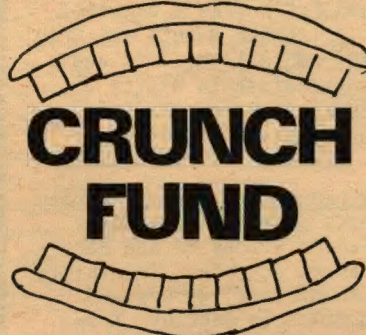
Name.....

Address.....

Printed and published by
Hackney People's Press,
47a Grayling Road, London
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(evenings and weekends).



"Oh my God! I've just heard about the financial crisis at Hackney People's Press!"



Several months of teetering on a financial knife-edge have at last caught up with us here at HPP - and we're now having to launch a CRUNCH FUND, to appeal to you, our readers and supporters, for money.

Our position is simple: we are substantially in debt to our ever helpful printers (and it is only through their kindness that we are able to print this month's issue) and we are desperately in need of some further cash to buy badly needed stocks of Letraset and other layout materials.

WE NEED £500 by the end of 1982 if we are to pull through this crisis, and enter our tenth anniversary year in a position of strength.

We have no rich backers, no political tendencies or parties behind us with cheap printing facilities, no commercial advertising. We depend entirely on sales, donations, a small amount of advertising and our own fund-raising efforts.

We think that Hackney needs the independent voice of a paper like HPP. We hope you will agree.

Every tooth in the drawing above represents £25 of our £500 appeal. Please rush your donations now to us, HPP, 47a Grayling Road, N16, - and save HPP from the CRUNCH!

Now we are 4

This year the Free Form Hackney team celebrates its fourth anniversary. Free Form was set up to work in Hackney promoting, investigating and supporting arts activities within the community.

Prior to 1979 the very fact of Free Form being based in Hackney plus the experience of previous Hackney based projects had highlighted the need to establish a resident community arts team in the borough. The introduction of Inner City Partnership Funding made the idea realisable and a mobile multi-media workshop team began operations in August 1979.

Since then the team has worked all over the borough with numerous different interest groups and a wide variety of ages - from 18 months to well over 80 years. The nature of the projects has consequently varied too, from an environment project which introduced game pathways, plants and painting in an Infants school yard, to an issue raising video made by a Tenants Association, to a resplendent procession of local people opening their local festival in a burst of colour and movement. The list goes on. The level of Free Form's funding is important as it enables them to work with smaller community groups who would not normally be able to afford such projects.

Their position as a resident team enables them to pursue long term relationships with groups in a particular way - they are always there and are available to give advice and support to groups and individuals throughout the year, not simply when they are "doing a project". However they do seek to balance established and continuing contacts with the new and different ones.

Free Form Arts Trust Ltd. can be contacted at 38 Dalston Lane, E8 3AZ. Tel 249 3394.

Hackney: 10 years ago

Ten years ago this month the big issue in both Hackney Action and the Hackney Gutter Press, Hackney's alternative papers, was the decision by the Council to implement the Tory Government's Housing Finance Act, which had the immediate effect of putting £1 a week on Council rents. The headline in HGP read: "Council votes to screw £1,450,000 out of Hackney Council tenants". The article went on to read the story of the Council's decision:

"The Council split right down the middle. On one side the careerist Labour politicians with the Tories, and on the other individual councillors who remembered who had elected them. Tenants packed the gallery, shouting opposition to the slippery double-talk of the Labour and Tory group that claimed the Council could operate the Act in the best interests of the 22,000 Council tenants in Hackney."

Hackney Action gave the full list of how individual Councillors had voted. Only eight are still on the Council. Two, Max Feldman and "Tory Joe" Lobenstein voted for implementation of the Act. Six others voted against: Sam Springer, John Kotz, Bob Masters, Matilda Owen, Bob Owen, and Charles Cable.

Hackney Action contained

some poems from a book that had just been published by Centerprise. It was a collection by a 13-year-old boy, Vivian Usherwood. Ten years later his poems are still in print, and his book has sold tens of thousands of copies all over the world. Tragically, Vivian is dead, trapped in a house fire in Stoke Newington two years ago.

Hackney Gutter Press contained a number of stories about local squatters groups. A woman squatting in Sandringham Road with four children had gone out one day. While she was out the police broke down the door, and installed three private security guards with Alsatian dogs. A Hackney Squatters Union had been set up to help people threatened by the courts.

And there was an appeal for helpers for the Gutter Press itself: with the threat: "if people want to see another edition of HGP then they had better come and produce it... The movement is growing. Gutter Presses are starting in Manchester, Liverpool, Notting Hill, Gravesend, Colchester."

Optimism, appeals for help, threats... Ten years on, things don't change much!

The Moving Left Show OCTOBER 29/30/31

The "Moving Left Show", a weekend festival of debate and entertainment organised by "Marxism Today", the theoretical and discussion journal of the Communist Party, will be taking place on the weekend of October 29/30/31.

Over 150 speakers from across the political spectrum will be participating in the 50 plus sessions on offer, which cover everything from the Falklands to the family, the labour party to "the left and the erotic". Apart from all this there will be live music,

comedy, films, stalls, children's events and a creche.

An added attraction will be a special debate, organised jointly with New Socialist, between Tony Benn and Italian Communist Party Parliamentary leader Giorgio Napolitano on "Which road to socialism in Western Europe?"

The festival will take place at Queen Mary College, Mile End Rd, E1. Booking is £8 (£4.50 unwaged) from 16 St. John Street, EC1M 4AY.

PETTY BUREAU

